(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages the National goal of having minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. As against this, as per India State of Forest Report, 2009, the forest and tree cover of the country is 23.8% of the geographical area. The forest and tree cover is gradually improving.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise, in view of the position stated in reply to part (a) and (b) above.

Environmental clearance to Srinagar power project

1885. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Srinagar project submitted by Alaknanda Hydropower Ltd. was granted environmental clearance on 3 May, 1985 for a 200 MW project having a 63 metres high dam and a maximum pond level of 603 metres;

(b) whether it is also a fact that environment clearance lapsed after five years but was illegally revalidated on 27 July, 1999 and again in 2006;

(c) whether the project now being set up with 330 MW capacity and 90 metre high dam is violating the environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the concerned officials and the promoters of the company for illegal increase in capacity and dam height?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Srinagar Hydro Electric Project was accorded environmental clearance on 3rd May, 1985 to U.P. State Electricity Board for generation of 200 MW. The environmental clearance was later transferred to M/s Duncan North Hydro Power Co. Ltd. and subsequently to M/s Alaknanda Hydropower Ltd.

(b) As major construction work was not started, the Ministry informed the project proponent that the environmental clearance should be treated as lapsed and fresh appraisal of project is required. Based on the information and clarifications received from the State Government and project proponent, the environmental clearance was revalidated for enhanced capacity of 330 MW.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quality of Ganga water

†1886. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has published a study report on the quality of Ganga water during 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that according to the report, the Ganga water is not suitable even for general bath;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for the degradation of the quality of Ganga water; and

(d) the contribution of each factor to the degradation of Ganga water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Planning Commission prepared a report in May, 2009 on utilisation of funds and assets created through Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in States. According to the report, the water quality of the river indicates some improvement over the pre-GAP period as per the water quality monitoring done by reputed independent institutions. The analysis of water quality at 16 monitoring stations on the river during 1986-2008 showed reduction in Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in all the stations, except two, indicating improvement in water quality. However, at 7 of these 16 locations, BOD levels do not meet the standards for bathing water. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels have shown improvement at 4 locations. In terms of total coliform count, the permissible limits for bathing water were exceeded at a number of monitoring stations. The situation would have been worse without the sewage treatment infrastructure created under GAP. The coliform count has increased particularly at pilgrimage places due to bathing to pilgrims. According to the report, the major factors affecting the water quality are; wide gap between domestic sewage generation and sewage treatment capacity created, discharge of untreated industrial effluents in the industrial pockets along the rivers, under utilization of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) due to reasons like irregular power supply, absence of connections between domestic sewage drains and STPs, failure of States to provide for maintenance cost of the STPs, etc.

Disposal of e-waste

1887. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has admitted that e-waste generation is likely to increase in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the big cities are generating more e-waste and no systematic methods exist to make proper disposal of e-waste; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure proper disposal of e-waste without having any pollution effects?